attacks your plant near the ground first and then spread up the main branches and even the stems of the leaves. This will affect your plant mainly making it week and unable to produce show type blooms. You will find snow scale more prevalent in the warm months of summer and fall.

The commonly called turtle-back scale is not nearly so profuse as it was a few years ago. However, if your plants are infested with this scale, it is easily noticed as it is a hard topped, dark colored scale which looks like its name would imply.

A minor infestation of snow scale can be controlled on well-established plants by using the force of pressure of water from your hose on the stems to knock the scale off; however if there is a severe infestation of this scale I would suggest using a spray of Volck Oil Spray in solution with water, two parts Volck to 50 parts water. You may incorporate nicotrol with the Volck solution one part to 200 parts water to control the aphids on the buds (you may use Black Leaf 40 per directions if nicotrol is not obtainable). Aphids are the small brownish green insects which cover the buds of the hibiscus and if allowed to multiply and prosper, this tiny insect can ruin your flowers, and make them not presentable to exhibit in a show. Aphids have no respect of time of year, there can be just as many in January as in June. When spraying for snow scale if the infestation is very severe it is a good idea to take a brush, dip it in the solution and Volck and brush the scale off. When spraying for turtle-back scale it may be necessary to spray two or three times, a week or ten days apart in order to kill all stages of the scale. During the summer and fall months the spraying for scales should be done in the very late afternoon or very early morning as the temperature should never be over 90° when using Volck or any oil emulsion spray. On the other hand the temperature should not be under 70° when using the above mentioned oil spray. If you will follow directions for using this spray, no harm will come to your plants. The same rules applies when using oil

spray as with any other contact spray, your plant should have a moist root system and be in as good condition as possible.

To control the aphids separately, use any good insecticide suitable for destruction of chewing insects. Your DDT dusts are good for aphids and for the pesky grasshoppers. I know many hibiscus gardeners who delight in decapitating the grasshopper. Of course this is a sure way to get rid of him but I would suggest you use a good insecticide in addition to the above method.

Hope to see as many members as possible at our annual Hibiscus Show, September 7, and at the other shows in northern Florida following our show.

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GENERAL PROCEDURE FOR HIBISCUS CARE AND CULTURE BELOW THE 27TH PARALLEL

– W. Bruce Parnell

Beginning August and continuing on through October, the summer procedure does not differ too much from the three preceeding months. We still have the hotter months to come down here, so continue a sharp look-out for insects, and more so for the fungus that we call Black Splotch. Treatment for all these will be found in the last issue of the SEED POD. However, too much emphasis cannot be put on the control of Black Splotch – if allowed to continue, this could result in serious trouble. Look close for this fungus – cut off all infected parts and burn them. It will not hurt to sterilize your shears. Spray with a nutritional spray that is high in copper content, after you do your cutting.

To supplement the above treatment, give your garden plants an application of 4-8-8 after you wet the ground around them. See that they have ample circulation of air, especially near the surface of the ground where they really get hot.